

Girl Scouts of Genesee Valley Delegate Bulletin

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Last Chance!

Delegate Information Night 6PM Tonight @ Henrietta Program Center

The new Leadership Model slide show will be presented and answers given to your questions about the Plan and Agreement to Merge prior to the Special Council Meeting on May 13th.

Frequently Asked Questions #2

Q: Why does the P&A state that we will be merged into the surviving corporation of "Girl Scouts of Niagara County, Inc"? What does this mean to our new council, "Girl Scouts of Western New York"?

A: Legally, it is less cumbersome and expensive to merge into an existing corporation that is complete and then to change the name of that surviving corporation to the name chosen for the new corporation.

Q: What does it mean to members if the new corporate address is Lockport? Will this be the only point of contact for girl and adult members once the merger is complete?

A: For most volunteers and families this will have no impact. Services will continue as they have in the past. This does not imply that the Lockport location will be the only facility available to Girl Scouts of Western New York.

Q: If I am a member of Girl Scouts of Genesee Valley/Niagara County/Buffalo and Erie County/Southwestern NY, do I automatically become a member of Girl Scouts of Western New York or is something required for that to happen?

A: You are a member of Girl Scouts of the USA regardless of your council affiliation. Your membership card that will be issued in the fall of 2008 will still have your former council name.

Q: What will happen to donor funds that support a property/program that will not be maintained once the merger to Girl Scouts of Western New York is complete?

A: The new council is obligated to honor the restrictions donors have placed on their gifts.

Q: A meeting linked by telecommunications is new to me, what does that mean? Will I incur any expenses to participate in this manner? If there is a vote at one of these meetings, how do I know that my vote has been counted?

A: State law requires if you are participating in a meeting via telephone you are able to hear and take part in all aspects of the meeting. The minutes of the meeting should reflect all in attendance, including those on the phone, and a vote should account for the total number of participants. You should incur no expenses when you participate in a phone conference if the conference call is hosted by the council.

Frequently Asked Questions #2 (continued...)

Q: The responsibilities of the officers have been outlined in the Bylaws. When will we learn the names of the persons that will hold these positions for Girl Scouts of Western New York?

A: These are available to you now on the various legacy council websites.

Q: There is reference to the Board Development Committee. Is this new?

A: The role of the Nominating Committee has been enhanced and now includes responsibility for mentoring board members. The Nominating Committee name has been changed to reflect these new responsibilities.

Q: There is reference to the CEO Performance Committee. What are the responsibilities of this committee Chair and members? How are they chosen?

A: The new Board of Directors will develop a charge for the committee and selection process for the members.

National Delegates

Q: Tell me how the number of national delegates was determined.

A: Every council gets one delegate and one additional delegate for every 1,500 girl members (members as of September 30, 2007). When councils merge they likely will have at least one less delegate than the sum total of all national council delegates combined.

National Delegate Count

Pre Realignment:

| Council | September 30, 2007 Membership | Delegates* |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|------------|
| Buffalo & Erie County | 9728 | 1 + 6 = 7 |
| Genesee Valley | 11,744 | 1 + 7 = 8 |
| Niagara County | 1820 | 1 + 1 = 2 |
| Southwestern NY | 1795 | 1 + 1 = 2 |
| Total: | 25,087 | 19 |

Post Realignment

| | | |
|------------------|--------|-------------|
| GS of Western NY | 25,087 | 1 + 16 = 17 |
|------------------|--------|-------------|

**The formula for figuring delegates is one per council, plus one for every 1500 girls.*

Q: Will the current national delegates remain in their positions until April 1, 2009?

A: No. In Genesee Valley, national delegates were elected with the understanding that if the merger occurred on July 1, national delegates would have to be elected by the new council.

Frequently Asked Questions #2 (continued...)

Q: How will national delegates be selected?

A: The answer to this question depends on the timing of the selection process. If the national delegates are elected before July 1, the transitional nominating committee is responsible for developing a process to elect a representative slate of national delegates. If the national delegates are elected after July 1, the new board development committee would be responsible for the process and election.

Local Delegates

Q: Will the current local delegates' authority remain as previously outlined until such time as new delegates are elected?

A: No. Current delegates were elected by volunteers in Girl Scouts of Genesee Valley. When the council ceases to exist, the authority of the delegates will also cease to exist.

Q: Will current council's delegates be eligible for election to a delegate position on the new council?

A: Yes, once the new Board of Directors has established a formula for creating a representative delegate body, Girl Scouts who served as delegates in the legacy councils will be eligible to be elected as delegates in the new council.

Q: It is stated the council will have no greater than 75 delegates based on a fair and equitable representation. Who determined this was an equitable representation when total delegates from the existing councils currently exceed this number?

A: The Bylaws Subcommittee of the CRC prepared the model and the CRC reviewed and adopted the Bylaws that will enhance the role of delegates. With fewer delegates, their roles take on even greater importance as links between the new Board of Directors and the council's membership.



Remembering Charlene

The Black Creek Service Unit is very sad to announce the passing of Charlene J Colbert on the 7th of March, 2008. She had been diagnosed this past October with inflammatory breast cancer and had been receiving and responding to treatments. However her body could not handle a recent bout of pneumonia and she died suddenly at the age of 41.

Charlene joined Girl Scouting as a co-leader for Troop 259 in 2003. Charlene and her husband Todd had no children of their own but they raised her niece Courtney Baker-Brown and when Courtney became involved in scouting it was only natural for Charlene to join her. Her co-leader Debi Bower had this remembrance – “I remember when I first met Charlene, she and little Courtney would go to as many Program Center events as they could - sharing in the quality time together doing the activities, and earning the badges. Courtney's vests across the scouting years are full of activities that she and Charlene did together. Talk about the ultimate scrap-book!” When her troop got dramatically smaller, she and her mother Nancy Brown continued to act as leaders for a troop of two girls, believing in the spirit of Girl Scouts, and certainly the fun.

Once involved as a co-leader, it wasn't long before Charlene began helping out at the Service Team level. She volunteered to act as a delegate in 2004 and was still an active delegate this year. Each year she would help organize crafts for the girls at the Black Creek open houses. When the women who had previously planned our Camporees retired, she immediately stepped up and took that on as well, planning the Camporee for the spring of 2007.

Charlene was truly a good person - inclusive of everyone around her, supportive and creative. She was always the one to make something out of nothing, whether with craft projects or life in general. Even though she worked full time, she made time for the things that were important in her life, and Girl Scouting was a huge part of that. Charlene truly believed in the Who We Are statement -- Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place. Thank you, Charlene, for BEING a true Girl Scout, and making the world a better place while you were here.